Le Fleure S-5 (no date)1939 EDI Rumania EDI

EDUCATION IN CURTEA DE ARGEŞ

871 368 IN THE TOWN there are five primary schools—three mixed, one for girls and one for boys. In the latter there is a kindergarten class for children between five and seven. There are two vocational secondary schools, the Theological College and the Technical School; these are for boys only. The nearest lycée for girls is at Piteşti, 37 kilometres away. Boys also must leave the town for ordinary secondary education.

872 The kindergarten was founded in 1928 by the Orthodox National Society of Roumanian Women. There is a special local committee of management. The room used is large; part of it serves as a cloakroom and for washing; the children use the same playground and offices as the boys.

[876] THERE ARE two teachers and about fifty-five children. Careful records of the progress of each child are kept. The children work in groups in low chairs at tables; no individual work is taken. Froebel's principles are followed, but Dr. Montessori's sense-training apparatus is used and Dr. Decroby's principles of teaching arithmetic are adopted.

INTERESTING HANDWORK is taken: paper-cutting pictures, modelling in clay and in paper, lace, crochet, etc. The first twenty minutes of each morning are set apart for the care of plants and animals and of the classroom. Speech training, physical exercises, free-play and singing are taught; as the school has no musical instrument, much depends on the musical ability of the mistress. The training is similar to that of primary school teachers; the salary is fixed by the local committee.

[346] THE PRIMARY SCHOOL for girls that we visited is housed in a large building of one storey, standing in its own grounds; it contains, all leading out of a central hall, four large and lofty classrooms, a teachers' small-room and an art room; there are no cloakrooms, the children hang their clothes on stands in the classrooms. These rooms are rather bare, but very light; they are heated by a big porcelain stove and the desks take three children. In summer classes are held in the garden. The

872 size of the classes varies from 40 to 50 children; there are five teachers. The Head takes a different class each year. The hours are from 9 to 12 and from 2 to 4. Some preparation is done at home. Holidays are generous—eight weeks in the summer, two at Easter, two at Christmas. There are no fees, but children buy their books if they can. The time-table and the syllabus are drawn up by the Minister of Education, and are the same for all schools. Inspectors visit frequently. There [758] is a full medical inspection of each child at the beginning of the year and then each subsequent month. In the first four years the curriculum resembles that of an English elementary school; in the fifth and sixth years the girls combine with general subjects either a commercial, an industrial or a housewifery course. In the seventh year they concentrate on vocational subjects and open their morning working away from school.

We saw some good examples of handwork, clay modelling, paper-cutting pictures, dolls in national dress, etc., and in Class I—the seven-year-olds—some most amusing pictures for the teaching of numbers. Religion is taught daily; there is a religious service on the first day of each month and the children go together to church with one teacher every Sunday.

874 If a girl wishes to become a teacher in a primary school, after four years in such a school she must spend eight in an Ecole Normale and then teach for three years before obtaining her full diploma. For secondary school teaching, after eight years in a lycée the girl goes, at nineteen, to the university for three or four years, and then spends four months in a lycée pédagogique. She then takes her "examen de capacité."

The Theological College, housed in a large red-brick building now being enlarged, takes 260 boys, many of whom come from a distance; all are boarders. The course lasts eight years: four years in the High School (12-16); four years in the College (16-20). Entrance is by means of an examination in Religion, Roumanian, Mathematics and History; there were in 1936 100 candidates for 40 places. The boys are worked very hard; lessons are from 8 to 12 and 2 to 4; preparation from 6 to 7.30 a.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m. In the High School the languages taken are Latin and French; in the College the course includes Greek, German, Pedagogy, Philosophy, Psychology, Sociology, Church History. The course at the College is followed by four years at a university.